

People with disabilities can and do work. The *Making Work Part of the Plan* video was designed to stimulate discussion about the importance work plays in the lives of people with disabilities. It is intended to challenge barriers such as low expectations about work by focusing on potential, combat misinformation about benefits and work, and reframe discussions so that

1. Think about a client/customer you worked with that was on public benefits such as SSI or standard MA. What expectations did you have about his or her ability to work? Was work part of the conversation about increasing income or access to healthcare? Why or why not? Would there be anything different or would you say anything differently if you could do it all over again?
2. Often people with disabilities face low expectations of work. As you saw in the video, only 21% of people with a disability are employed. What ways can you support a person with a disability and his or her potential? How can you break down barriers of low expectations and misinformation?
3. Benefits are an important part of the lives of many people with disabilities. However, many cash benefits only provide a very minimum income that can limit the ability to live a life a person would like to live. How can you frame discussions about financial stability/security for people with disabilities so that discussions not only include the role of benefits, but the role of employment?
4. Starting the conversation about work can seem overwhelming. What are some ways you can begin to talk about work with your clients/customers? How can you include work as an important option in plans designed to increase income and access to healthcare for people with disabilities?
5. Having a conversation about work and benefits can seem confusing, even for professionals like yourself who work to support people with disabilities every day. There are tools to help including DB101 which has robust content on benefits (including work incentives that support work), customized estimators that show how an individual's income and healthcare are affected by work, and instant access to experts through live-chat and telephone. How can you incorporate these resources into your work so that you feel more comfortable talking about how work impacts benefits?

YOUR RESOURCE. YOUR WAY.



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